

*Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee Newsletter*

*The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, established by IDAPA 16.02.03.100*

*A statewide committee appointed by the Director of the Department of Health and Welfare "to provide counsel to the Department in administering the EMS act"*

## National Registry Proposes to Eliminate Certain Exams

*Decision forces accreditation issue*

### Meeting Dates

- February 7, 2008  
Ameritel Boise Spectrum  
7409 Overland Rd, Boise
- June 26 & 27, 2008  
TBD

Call your regional EMS office for more information

Like many states across the nation, Idaho is beginning to prepare for the coming changes associated with implementing the EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach (<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/ems/EdAgenda/final/>). The document was published in 2000 with well-defined components proposed to create an improved structured system to educate the next generation of EMS professionals. The enormous amount of effort and cooperation necessary to make this evolution a success is rapidly becoming evident.

The National Registry of EMT's (NREMT), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Committee on Accreditation for EMS Educational Programs (CoAEMSP), the National Association of State EMS Educators (NASEMSE) and the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) are working together to assure states are informed about the impact with projected time frames and the tools to assist with the implementation.

The proposed educational system is based on the following five components:

**National EMS Core Content** – The skills and knowledge used in out-of-hospital emergency care, developed by EMS physicians.

**National EMS Scope of Practice** – A division of the core content into levels of practice, defining the minimum knowledge and skills for each level.

**National EMS Education Standards** – In lieu of the National Standard Curriculum specifying learning objectives for each level of practice.

**National EMS Education Program Accreditation** – Mechanism for assuring consistency and educational program quality for the protection of students and the public.

**National EMS Certification** – Standardization of exam process and certification requirements to assure entry level competency of EMS providers.

The Core Content and Scope of Practice has been developed and will contain four levels of EMS providers recognized nationally: the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced EMT, and Paramedic. Although the EMR, EMT, and Paramedic are similar to the First Responder, EMT-B and Paramedic levels are already in place in Idaho, knowledge and skills for these levels is being expanded. The new Advanced EMT level will have some significant increases in the knowledge, skills, and medications options.

Draft 2 of the Educational Standards is currently open for comments and can be found at [www.nemses.org](http://www.nemses.org). Discussion and planning for proposed program accreditation and a national EMS certification is beginning to occur.

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*(National Registry continued from page 1)*

At the October EMSAC meeting, Dia Gainor gave an overview of the project and two key changes that require early integrated planning with Idaho's educational programs:

- 1) The NREMT will change the content of their exams to align with the "new" scope of practice and provider levels and will at that point not simultaneously offer exams for the "old" levels.
- 2) The NREMT will require paramedic test candidates to have graduated from a nationally accredited educational program beginning December 31, 2012.

The first of these changes will require that all instructors begin teaching the new Educational Standards at a defined point. This is largely dependant upon when instructor resources are developed and become available from EMS educational publishing companies. Educational program and instructor orientation will need to occur for the new objectives and any required additional resources, tools, and supplies.

The second change involves national accreditation of paramedic programs, also an area of potential significant impact. Although some of the paramedic programs in Idaho are accredited by CoAEMSP, all are not. The benefits of aligning with national standards for allied health profession accreditation are consistent with the content and delivery of paramedic education. This ensures the protection of students in the investment they are making and protection of the public with competent and consistent EMS patient care.

The Idaho EMS Bureau will continue to assess emerging national implementation plans and inform the educational system stakeholders in Idaho. Discussion and planning at the state level will continue as more contemporary and definitive information becomes available.



*Exams that meet the new model must be ready by the time the first personnel will be trained*

## **Prehospital Electronic Record System (PERCS) Moves from MedMedia To ImageTrend**

In June 2006, the EMS Bureau initiated the PERCS pilot project using MedMedia as the vendor. In March 2007, Image Trend was selected as the vendor.

The EMS Bureau is rolling out the transition to ImageTrend, to create continuity in electronic submission.

Rulemaking is in process to make submitting electronic PCRs mandatory, possibly by 2009.

There are two versions of ImageTrend; web based and client based. The web based version is free and has all of the essential elements, but not as many functions.

The client based software costs about \$1,000, plus \$400 annually. The EMS Bureau has a fixed number of licenses for the client based software.

## **EMS Bureau News**

Two of the Regional Consultants, Andy Edgar and Russ Pierson, were reclassified to Compliance Specialists. Duties of the Compliance Specialist will include inspections, oversight of practical and written exams, and management of complaints.

Denny Neibaur (Boise) and Dean Neufeld (Lewiston) are the Regional Consultants in the System Development (SD) Section. The vacancy in the position in the Idaho Falls office will be filled soon.

M. Neeki Larsen joins the Bureau as the new System Development Section Manager. Recently hired Tiffany Casias is the Idaho Falls Regional Consultant Administrative Assistant and Marcella Mink is the Boise Systems Development Administrative Assistant.

## **POST Rollout is a Success**

The Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (POST) program has been well received by all involved and seems to be functioning smoothly. The Better Way Coalition will distribute POST jewelry and educational materials.

*The Bureau is rolling out the transition to ImageTrend*

## Grants Rules Task Force Close to Completion

The fourteen member task force met three times this year with the objective of making grant awards equitable and simplify the application process. Approved revisions will affect FY11 grant cycle.

The EMS Bureau will test old applications with new scoring criteria for the task force to review. Financial scoring criteria is being reviewed.

The following recommendations were suggested:

- Change the total mileage of similar vehicles to an average of that number.
- Increase points scored on the narrative review to 15%.
- More definitions were added.
- Only one endorsement is required for each application; if a vehicle is requested, the endorsement must confirm agreement to have the entity's name on title.
- Remove the points scored for the number of city and county endorsements.
- Remove population numbers from the application, and add call volume information to the formula.
- Remove the four-wheel drive category from scoring.
- Some equipment items may be listed on one line with same priority, depending on cost.
- Change some grant cycle dates to benefit both agencies and the bureau.
- Change total points from 95 to 100.

*The objective of the task force was to make grant awards more equitable and easier for applicants to complete*

## EMS Code Task Force Hopes to Have Language Ready for 2008 Legislature

The Code Task Force is developing structure and language for legislative review to create uniform EMS systems throughout the state that would incorporate repre-

sentation from all concerned stakeholders and cover every square mile of Idaho.

The current set of laws has loopholes and does not address current needs. The Code Task Force is making great progress and hopes to have language ready for the 2008 Legislative session.

## EMSAC Awards

Awards were given to Ken Schwab and David Kim for outstanding service.

Certificates will be sent to Lynn Borders and Bob Larsen as retiring members when their terms end in December, 2007.



## EMSAC Subcommittee Reports

### Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Subcommittee

Without increasing the total number of hours, the EMS Bureau will require pediatric content in Continuing Education (CE) hours for recertification for all levels of EMT's. Of the seventy-two CE hours, required every two years for Paramedics, eight hours will be in pediatrics (an increase from four hours). Currently EMT-Basic and Advanced EMT-A are not required to have pediatric CE hours for recertification; however, EMT-Basic will need four hours of pediatric CE's every three years and Advanced EMT-A will be required to obtain four hours of pediatric CE every two years.

The EMSC Subcommittee is looking at options for a state-wide roll-out of Emergency Pediatric Care (EPC) for continuing education for EMS providers needing pediatric specific classes/CE's. Train-the-trainer courses will need to be held to create a base of trainers state-wide. EPC is inexpensive, widely available, and most importantly, there are federal funds available for the roll-out.

### Grants Subcommittee

#### FY 08 Dedicated Grants

Awards totaling \$1,083,167 were made to 53 agencies (\$856,181 for 12 vehicles, \$226,986 for equipment). Requests for EPI equipment were awarded to 6 agencies, totaling \$1,818

#### FY 08 Training Grants

58 applications for training grants were received totaling \$123,503. Award notification totaling \$54,300 will be sent to recipients at the end of November. Disbursements will be made upon receipt of course documentation.

### Licensure Subcommittee

The subcommittee recommended licensure for East Side Fire Protection District Quick Response Unit.

Prichard/Murray Volunteer Fire Department received licensure to upgrade from BLS Non-Transport to ILS-Non Transport.

*Without increasing the total number of hours, the EMS Bureau will require pediatric content*

# Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

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